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JPRS: 4571

28 April 1961

CZECHOSLOVAK THIRD FIVE-YEAR PLAN IN PUBLIC HEALTH

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FOREWORD

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JPRS: 4571

CSO: 1623-S

CZECHOSLOVAK THIRD FIVE-YEAR PLAN IN PUBLIC HEALTH

[Following is the translation of an unsigned article in Vestnik Ministerstva Zdravotnictvi (Journal of the Ministry of Health), Vol IX, Section 1-2, Prague, 16 January 1961, pages 1-4.]

(Published by the Information Service of the Ministry of Health, No. 51-25, 2 December 1960.)

From the decisions of the National Conference of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia on the Third Five-Year Plan for the Development of the Czechoslovak National Economy, 1961-1965.

Under the leadership of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, the workers of Czechoslovakia have successfully solved the basic problems of the changeover from capitalism to socialism and have established socialism. Grave changes in all phases of social life enable Czechoslovakia to begin a new phase of its development, the phase of the development of a mature socialist society.

II.-H. The Rise in the Standard of Living: Public health should be more expressly directed toward preventive measures, especially in raising the level of safety and progress in work. Efforts will be made to establish healthy living and working conditions, primarily the purification of air and water systems, etc.

Medical care, training, education and culture should be developed to such an extent in the next few years that the general development of man's physical and spiritual faculties would be made possible. The training of personnel should be directed toward raising the level of qualifications and the cultural technical level.

VIII. Medical care should be more expressly directed toward preventive measures. With that view in mind, first of all healthy living and working conditions should be established and hygienic-epidemiological services should be greatly increased. In cooperation with all the branches responsible for the development of our economy, greater efforts than previously should be made to protect the air, water and soil from pollution.

By increasing work in regional and industrial areas we should direct ourselves to the development and improvement of ambulatory services. Special attention should be devoted to the organization and quality of ambulatory service in large cities.

Public health installations should at all times be supplied with qualified workers: make sure that by 1965 every compound will have one doctor per 3,750 individuals. Specialized services for children and women, and dental care, should be supplemented and the population should be brought closer to specialized services by providing a system of polyclinics and joint hospitals.

Special attention should be paid to the care of the child, mother and youth. The efforts to lower infant death rate and improve care for school-age youth should continue. Make an earnest effort to increase the birth rate. The number of openings in nurseries per 1,000 children up to three years of age should be increased to such a number that in 1965 there would be at least 91 places per 1,000 children. At the same time increase nursery space 48% over the present level.

In the struggle against diseases and harmful phenomena which endanger our population, make further strides in the fight against tuberculosis; lower the incidence of contagious diseases; concentrate all efforts to prevent diseases of the heart and arteries, and of new unknown types; pay more attention to chronic diseases of the respiratory organs, rheumatism, and nervous and mental illness. Increase the network of health installations in such a way that by 1965 there would be 13.7 beds per 1,000 persons and of this number, general and maternity hospitals would receive 8.1 beds.

By 1965 initiate and finish the building of large hospitals in Prague-Motol, Most, Znojmo, Poruba, Havírov, Bratislava and Kosice.

The number of medical positions, especially dental, should be so increased that by 1965 there would be at least 19.1 medical positions per 10,000 persons; of that number 11.8 in ambulatory installations.

The medical facilities of factories should direct the fight against the most common diseases, care for the working women and youth and systematically and self-consciously devote themselves to the care of the worker work capacity has been impaired. Cooperate with other units to attain a significant decrease in accidents.

Health resorts should be first of all provided for diseases occurring on a mass scale, the number of beds for children and youth should be increased, and the ambulatory health resort service should also be increased. Improve patient selection and generally increase the level of service offered in health resorts. In the development of services for paying patients, try to attract foreign visitors.

Medical research should be directed especially to probing the health of the population, to the study of the outstanding problems in the development of a new generation, to the study of the protection of living and working quarters, to the study of man's rational diet and the treatment of bacteria and virus infections, circulatory diseases, and nervous and mental illness, and to the study of malignant tumor.

The material basis for a successful fight against diseases and protection against them is the securing of sufficient amounts of quality medicines. Therefore, by 1965, the medicinal output will be increased at least by 67% as against 1960. The production of vitamins will more

than triple. It is necessary to increase the enriching of foods with vitamins and contribute thus to the increase of the population's immunity to current infectious diseases. Insure the supply of necessary medicines, serums and vaccination materials, dental needs, orthopedic products and glasses, veterinary medicines, antibiotics used for feeding and other purposes, and other materials for the food industry and for agricultural needs. Develop the production of new basic medicines against diseases that are the most frequent cause of death or crippling. Conduct an intensive search for new medicines against destructive exuberance, circulatory diseases, rheumatic and nervous diseases. Furthermore, attend to the improvement of the quality of medicines used to fight infectious diseases, especially tuberculosis and contagious diseases. Try to further the effective production of the medicines already proven and attain technical parameters of the most developed products from abroad. By 1965 insure the increase in export products of the Ministry of Health by at least 87% as compared with 1960.

From the Statute on the Third Five-Year Plan for the
Development of the Czechoslovak National Economy
Part 9: Improvement in the standard of living

Paragraph 22, Point 5. The scope of services paid for by the population will grow by at least 40%. National Committees will devote more attention to the development and improvement of services, especially those that eliminate strenuous work at home and raise the standards of living quarters, hygiene and cleanliness.

Point 6. Medical care will be primarily directed toward preventive measures and to the establishment of healthy living and working conditions. Special care will be devoted to the protection of the air, water and soil against pollution. Above all, the hygienic and anti-epidemic services, ambulatory health services, care of mothers, children and youth, as well as health care in factories will be strengthened and developed. The network of medical installations will be so increased that there will be 200,500 beds and about 28,200 positions for physicians.

Point 8. The care for pre-school children will be improved, especially by increasing the capacity of nurseries, kindergardens and homes. The nursery capacity will surpass 63,000 places, kindergardens and agricultural caretaking homes will provide care for more than 390,000 children.

The Basis for the Third Five-Year Plan Statute, in Support of
Paragraph 22:

In public health more emphasis will be placed on hygienic and anti-epidemic care, as well as preventive measures and treatment. Improvement in ambulatory service in the districts will be encouraged and the average number of people for one district doctor will be lowered to 3,750. The districts will continue to be supplied with special medical services; a system of polyclinics and unified hospitals will be introduced.

In the struggle against diseases dangerous to the health of the population, steps will be taken especially against tuberculosis and against contagious diseases of the heart and arteries, and new, unknown types. Special attention will be paid to the care for mothers, children and youth. Efforts will be made to continue to improve the care of school children, decrease the infant death rate and in general, and encourage a rise in birth rate.

The net of health services will be so enlarged that there will be 13.7 beds to serve 1,000 people; general and maternity hospitals will be given 8.1 of these beds. The number of positions for doctors, especially dentists, will be so increased that by 1965, there will be 19.1 doctors per 10,000 people. By 1965 there will be the beginning of construction or perhaps the finishing of large hospitals in Prague-Motol, Most, Znojmo, Poruba, Havirov, Bratislava, Kosice, etc.

The care of children of working mothers will be ensured through the further expansion of nursery and kindergarden space. The number of openings in nurseries will grow by 46% and reach more than 63,000 places. That means that for 1,000 children up to three years of age there will be 91.1 places. At the same time there will be a development of nurseries within factories.

Measures taken by the Ministry of Health as a Result
of the Decisions of the Czechoslovak Communist
Party's National Conference on Public Health

I.

The National Conference of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia represents a historical milestone in the development of our state. The approval of the Socialist Constitution and the Third Five-Year plan by the conference established the general direction in the realization of the further development of our socialist society. This general direction is committed to a further development in public health and is expressed in the aim to finish the development of the socialist and go over to the preparation for communist interpretation of health protection.

With this aim in mind it is necessary to direct the further development of public health in such a way so that the basic principles of socialist medicine be not only well utilized but also that those areas already using these principles in their health program, would introduce elements of a communist health program. That means:

Medical care for the whole population is almost completely free, save for few exceptions. For the full realization of this principle, we must have the gradual introduction of free preventive medical care, according to economic possibilities and in step with increased employment and collectivization of the rural areas; and it must be made available to the remaining parts of the population, first of all to the remaining children. At the same time it is necessary that this free medical care continually enlarges the scope of its available services.

During the establishment of socialist medicine we have made medical

care more accessible so that we are foremost in this field in the whole world. However, the level of these services is to some extent limited to the net of medical installations and their material supplies and personnel in areas quantitatively and qualitatively unbalanced. It is therefore necessary to continue the gradual progress in the planned national economy measures and supplement the net of medical establishments, allocate public health programs objectively, furnish them with materials and the necessary staff and insure their high specialized and ideological level. At the same time it is primarily necessary to be oriented toward ensuring the full scale operation of the basic services in health districts. Additional specialized services should be introduced according to the needs of the population with regard to the local communications and other special conditions. The improvement in the quality of medical service should continue on every level.

All the conditions for a thorough preventive orientation of all medical services have been set up, especially since we have successfully introduced preventive and treatment service units. Significant successes were achieved by a real unity of action, as for example in mother-and-child care. Nevertheless, there is a number of areas where preventive direction of our medical care is not put to a proper use, especially in our factories. It is therefore necessary to continue to strengthen the unity of preventive and treatment care and to make sure that preventive measures are carried out by every doctor and every health worker in his own location and that preventive measures gradually become first class and the main concern of his work and activity. It is therefore also necessary that each health worker becomes a conscientious and active helper and fighter for the establishment of healthy living and working conditions and a rational diet for the population. It is necessary to pay attention to the elimination of mass scale diseases that cause the greatest threat to the health of the nation and the ability to work, especially the circulatory diseases, TB, fatal tumors, infection of the respiratory organs, and contagious diseases, especially of an alimentary and respiratory nature.

A broad basis has been set up for scientific research in medicine. This program is nationally coordinated and directed and is basically oriented to the foremost problems, according to the needs of national health. Its shortcoming is still the inflexible and not too rapid transferring of the results of research into practice. Therefore, it is necessary that in the further development of science and research, an effort be made to seek ways and correct methods of a rapid and effective adaptation of the results of domestic research and world discoveries into practice. Scientific research should continue to be directed toward the main problems of the state of health of the population and furthermore to the establishment of more effective organizational forms of health care, number and types of health measures, and health workers.

In accordance with the principles of a socialist health program there should be the greatest possible participation on the part of the workers in carrying out and administering medical care. Many of the

citizens of our state are already engaged in this work. The spirit of the decisions of the conference demand that the participation of the workers in the functioning and administration of medical care be considerably increased. According to the principle that the protection of health is primarily the concern of the workers themselves, it is necessary to continue to increase the level of the population's awareness of public health by the systematic deepening of health education, to insist on proper living habits and, in cooperation with the Revolutionary Labor Union Movement and the Czechoslovak Red Cross, to increase the active participation of all of the workers in creating a healthy living and working atmosphere. As a result of the further development of the legality and responsibility of National Assemblies in directing health programs, the National Assemblies and their organs, especially committees, should help in the fulfillment of their tasks and in the organization of worker participation in the direction and control of medical care. The whole program, all levels of administration and all of the subordinated factions, should support the development of worker initiative; cooperative with wide groups of specialists, scientists, inventors and other outstanding workers. The cooperation with the Union of Medical Specialists should be intensified in the spirit of the decisions of the Fourth All-Specialist Convention.

II.

These concrete conclusions for the new function of the Ministry of Health and its work methods stem from the decisions of the National Conference of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia.

It is agreed that the basic tasks of the Ministry of Health as the central organ continue to be: to determine the medico-political concept of the development of public health, to protect it within the scope of the plan and within the budget, act as a normalizing and methodical agent, carry out systematic controls and establish conditions for worker participation in administration and control.

Within the activities of the Ministry of Health belong first of all the needs to:

Work out the national medico-political concept and attend to its security in the individual regions;

Work out and set up the basic concept of the individual sectors and fields;

Work out the suggested plans for the development of public health, especially the long-range plans;

Systematically observe the state of health of the population and its living and working conditions and carry out the necessary measures for its improvement;

Set up basic norms, especially those of protecting medical services, workers' norms, material and technical provisions, norms and indicators of material loads, etc.;

Set up prototypes of medical installations and the basis for their locations;

Set up prototypes and models of health workers, direct their training, education and preparation;

Publish the necessary directives for hygienic and anti-epidemic care and diagnoses, and supervise the adherence to these hygienic and anti-epidemic regulations;

Find solutions to the basic problems of organization and direction of individual sectors and fields;

Introduce, work out and intensify progressive methods of work in medical care, especially the results of scientific and research work;

Work out methods aids for medical organization in the individual sectors;

Determine the direction of medical research;

Determine the direction of research, development and production of medicines, instruments, machines and all other medical equipment;

Designate the line of foreign exchanges in medicine and insure the necessary concrete measures;

Systematically check the organizational development of the program with an effort to reach an organizational stability during the Third Five-Year Plan;

Systematically supervise and strengthen the consolidation of economically productive units.

THE PROBLEMS of SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH and SUPPLEMENTARY EDUCATION

Additional research institutes will be set up during the Third Five-Year Plan. By 1 January 1961 the Psychiatric Research Institute in Prague, the Research Institute for Experimental Therapy in Prague, a branch of the Oncological Research Institute in Brno and a branch of the Research Institute for Physiotherapy, Balneology and Climatology in Bratislava will all be in operation. The establishment of a Pediatric Research Institute, a branch of the Institute for Occupational Diseases in Ostrave (with an orientation toward research in the hygienic problems of mines and mine shafts) and in Pribram (for the study of hygienic problems in the mining and refining of radioactive materials) is being planned by 1963. A central isotope center will be set up in Prague-Krc.

The Institute for Advanced Medical Training in Prague will be clinically oriented and the number of pedagogic workers will be doubled. This will provide for the post-doctoral training of physicians and pharmacists.

Brno and Bratislava will set up centers for the further education and supplementary education of workers in medical units.